

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, which starts "Thus, according" with the following:

Thus, according to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an ink for ink jet recording, comprising at least a water-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, and a mixture of two or more compounds represented by formula (I):



wherein

EO represents an ethyleneoxy group;

PO represents a propyleneoxy group;

T represents an OH group or  $SO_3M$  wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an inorganic base, or an organic amine;

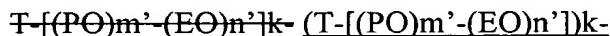
m and n are each an integer;

k is a natural number of not less than 1;

R represents

a  $C_aH_{2a+k-1}CaH_{2a+2-k}$  group where a represents natural number of 4 to 10,

an  $Ra-C_aH_{2a+k-2}Ra-CaH_{2a+1-k}$  group where a represents natural number of 4 to 10 and Ra represents a group represented by formula



wherein

EO, PO, T and k each are as defined above; and n' and m' are

respectively n and m,

EO and PO being arranged, regardless of order in the parentheses, randomly or as blocks joined together,

n or n + n' being 1 to 10 with m or m + m' being 0 to 5 when n and m and n' and m' are expressed in terms of the average value for the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) contained in the ink, or

a group represented by the following formula;

K-M-O-

wherein K represents a saturated or unsaturated aromatic ring having 4 to 15 carbon atoms or a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic ring having 4 to 15 carbon atoms, M represents a bond or an alkylene group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and O represents an oxygen atom.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5, which starts "The  $C_aH_{1a-k-1}$ " with the following:

The  $C_aH_{1a-k-1} - C_aH_{2a+2-k}$  group represented by R in formula (I) may be of branched or straight-chain type. In the group, a represents natural number or 4 to 10 and k ~~represents~~ represents the number of groups  $-(EO)_n-(PO)_m-$  which attach to R. Thus, when k=1, R represents a  $C_{4-10}$  alkyl group and specific examples thereof include butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, and decyl groups. The alkyl group having 4 to 10 carbon atoms can provide an ink having good penetrability. As described above, the alkyl group may be of branched or straight-chain type. In general, however, the branched type is preferred. For example in the case of a butyl

group, utilization of a compound with R representing a branched butyl group, that is, an isobutyl or T-butyl group, as a main component can provide an ink having good penetrability which can yield high-quality images. According to the present invention, the compound represented by formula (I) is used as a mixture.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6, which starts "R also" with the following:

R also represents an ~~Ra-C<sub>a</sub>H<sub>2a+k-2</sub>~~ Ra-CaH<sub>2a+1-k</sub> group. The group may be of branched or straight-chain type. Ra represents a group represented by formula

~~T-[ (PO)<sub>m'</sub>-(EO)<sub>n'</sub> ]k-~~ (T-[ (PO)<sub>m'</sub>-(EO)<sub>n'</sub> ] )k-

wherein

EO, PO, T and k each are as defined above; and n' and m' are respectively n and m. Therefore, EO and PO may be arranged, regardless of order in the parentheses, randomly or as blocks joined together.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 7, which starts "According to a first" with the following:

According to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that R represents a ~~C<sub>a</sub>H<sub>2a+k</sub>+CaH<sub>2a+2-k</sub>~~ group and T represents ~~a hydrogen atom OH~~.

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 7, which starts "According to a second" with the following:

According to a second preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that R represents an  $\text{Ra}-\text{C}_a\text{H}_{2a-k-2}$   $\text{Ra}-\text{CaH}_{2a+1-k}$  group and T represents a hydrogen atom  $\text{OH}$ .

Please replace the sixth paragraph on page 7, which starts "According to a third" with the following:

According to a third preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that R represents a  $\text{CaH}_{2a-k}+$   $\text{CaH}_{2a+2-k}$  group and T represents  $\text{SO}_3\text{M}$ .

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, which starts "According to a fourth" with the following:

According to a fourth preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that R represents a  $\text{CaH}_{2a-k}+$   $\text{CaH}_{2a+2-k}$  group, EO represents  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ , PO represents  $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ , and T represents a hydrogen atom  $\text{OH}$ , R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula  $\text{R}-(\text{EO})_n-(\text{PO})_m-\text{T}$ .

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8, which starts "According to the fifth" with the following:

According to a fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention, the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) is composed of:

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein R represents a  $\text{CaH}_{2a-k}+$

CaH<sub>2a+2-k</sub> group and T represents a hydrogen atom OH, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(EO)n-(PO)m-T; and

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein R represents a CaH<sub>2a+k-4</sub> CaH<sub>2a+2-k</sub> group and T represents a hydrogen atom OH, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(PO)m-(EO)n-T.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 8, which starts "According to another" with the following:

According to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds, represented by formula (I), composed of the mixture each are such that R represents the group K-M-O- and T represents a hydrogen atom OH.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 29, which starts "The compounds" with the following:

The compounds of formula (I) used in Example B were compounds wherein T represents a hydrogen atom OH.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 38, which starts "The compound" with the following;

The compound of formula (I) used in example D is a mixture of compounds of formula (I) wherein EO represents -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, PO represents -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-CH<sub>2</sub>O-, and T represents a hydrogen atom OH, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(EO)n-(PO)m-T.

Please replace the first full paragraph from the bottom of page 41, which starts "The compound of formula (I)" with the following;

The compound of formula (I) used in Example E is a mixture of a compound of formula (I), wherein T represents a hydrogen atom OH, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula  $R-(EO)^{n1}-(PO)^{m1}-T$ , with a compound of formula (I) wherein T represents a hydrogen atom, R, PO, EO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula  $R-(PO)^{m2}-(EO)^{n2}-t$ . The former compound will be hereinafter referred to as "compound (I-1)," while the latter compound will be hereinafter referred to as "compound (I-2)."